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            UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
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IN RE
PET FOOD PRODUCTS

## CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:

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                                    MDL-07-02867 (NLH)
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DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

MITCHELL H. COHEN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
ONE JOHN F. GERRY PLAZA,
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, 08101

BEFORE:
THE HONORABLE NOEL L. HILLMAN UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, AT CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

APPEARANCES:
U.S. DISTRICT COURT - CAMDEN - NEW JERSEY

WEXLER, TORISEVA, WALLACE,
BY: KENNETH A. WEXLER, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

BERGER \& MONTAGUE,
BY: RUSSELL PAUL, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

NORA CONSTANCE MARINO, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF, LOIS SLEMBECKER

WILLIAM T. ANASTASIO, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF CYNTHIA DOTOLI

DLA PIPER,
BY: MARY GATELY, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT MENU FOODS

FARUKI, IRLEAND \& COX,
BY: BRIAN D. WRIGHT, ESQUIRE,
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT IAMS COMPANY

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SQUIRE, SANDERS, & DEMPSEY,
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BY: MARK G. GOODMAN, ESQUIRE,
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HOGAN \& HARTSON
BY: CRISTEN SIKES ROSE, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR NESTLE, PETCO, PURINA
STEPHEN J. DANER, CCR, RPR,
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
UU.S. DISTRICT COURT - CAMDEN - NEW JERSEY
(The following takes place in open Court before the
Honorable Noel L. Hillman, United States District Court, District of New Jersey, sitting at Camden, New Jersey, on April 3, 2009)

THE COURT: Good morning, everyone.

Please be seated.

This is Pet Food MDL -- I guess the original docket, 07-2867, and it's MDL 1850.

Appearance, please?

MR. WEXLER: Ken Wexler, for plaintiffs in the class.

THE COURT: All right.

How are you, Mr. Wexler?

MR. WEXLER: Great. Thank you.

MR. PAUL: Russell Paul, Berger \& Montague on behalf of --

THE COURT: Welcome to you as well, sir.

MS. MARINO: Good morning, Your Honor, Nora Constance Marino, representing plaintiff, Lois Slembecker.

THE COURT: They found room at the table for you.

MS. MARINO: I got here first.

MR. ANASTASIO: William Anastasio, representing Cynthia Dotoli.

THE COURT: Mr. Anastasio, you found us here in
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Camden, all the way from Summit.

MR. ANASTASIO: Yes.
THE COURT: All right.

Welcome.

MS. GATELY: Good morning, Your Honor.
Mary Gately, on behalf of Menu Foods and liaison counsel for the defendants.

THE COURT: Nice to see all of you in person. After a while you were disembodied voices.

Welcome.
MR. WRIGHT: Brian Wright, on behalf of the Iams Company.

THE COURT: Welcome.

MR. GOODMAN: Mark Goodman for Wal-Mart, Petco, Pet Smart, Target, liaison counsel for defendants.

THE COURT: Welcome to you, Mr. Goodmen, as well.

MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
MS. BERGE: Good morning, Your Honor, Miranda Berge.

MS. ROSE: Cristen Rose, for Menu Foods.

THE COURT: Yes, miss Rose. Sometimes we have trouble hearing you, but we don't have trouble hearing you because we have this wonderful new sound system here, although it's highly sensitive. But $I$ guess it's a good
thing.
It is good to see all of you, although, I have to say I'm not thrilled with the circumstances.

Let's see where we are here.

The only issue I'm going to address here, today, and get an update from Mr. Wexler on the money issue, but the issue for today is the order to show cause which I issued, and the matter, Miss Marino 's filing in the Southern District of New York before, I believe Judge Rakoff, and Mr. Anastasio, you have a pending matter in State Court here in New Jersey.

MR. ANASTASIO: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Let me -- I have read the papers. I'm of the view at this stage, in any event, after reading the papers that both the plaintiffs in the Federal and State matters appear to be class members. Even perhaps admitted they're class members, and I'm having a difficulty understanding why $I$ should not enjoin both you Miss Marino, and you have Mr. Anastasio, from proceeding in those respective Courts.

But, Miss Marino, you in particular make a great -- a great deal out of the due process concerns, so it would be incumbent upon me to hear you. So you tell me why it's wrong.

MS. MARINO: Well, Your Honor, you said you read
the papers. I don't want to be repetitive. We simply didn't know about the action. If, if we knew about it, we would have either brought the action here or opted out so we could maintain our separate action. We didn't know.

As you can see I did an extensive amount of
research in the time that I had. Rule 23. And, I understand that it is the law. I believe it's unconstitutional, and I mean segregation was once legal and accepted. I don't think it's fair for my client to be cast aside.

As a separate matter I made the cross motion that my claim form at least be deemed timely filed non pro tunc, and I asked Miss Rose actually in the beginning of this when she asked me to discontinue my case, I suggested if we could sign a stip that they will accept my claim, but that they were unable to do that. My hands were tied. I had to keep my action alive in the Southern District. I understand this Court maintains jurisdiction. I have a client to protect, and I couldn't look my client in the eye and tell her you are out of luck, there's nothing there for you because you didn't affirmatively opt out, which really flies in the face of logic. You should really have to affirmatively opt-in. I think people get hurt with this type thing, and injustice is inevitable, and I'm sure my client is not the only person who has been
cast aside because of the notice, or the lack thereof.
And if Your Honor feels that my case should be enjoined in the Southern District, I respect and understand the decision, but $I$ would ask my cross motion be granted.

I also don't believe that the defendants have sufficiently opposed my cross motion. They mention Rule 60. We meet all the requirement of rule 60. No one disputes my claim of, regarding the lack Constitutionality or due process.

THE COURT: I don't think that's quite true. They plainly assert, and the law seems to be clear, the Constitutionality of Rule 23 has been upheld. And, that the process that was given here is the process that's due under the circumstances.

Miss Marino, the facts are that your client retained you in August of '07. You had 15 months to research the existence of this, the matters pending here, the fact of the recall, which had been months earlier; the fact of the matters pending here, the preliminary approval, the final approval. None of that was discovered by you. If you had discover all that, it seems to me you would have had the ability to opt out. Rule 11, and I'm not prejudging whatever motions may be made in the Southern District of New York, but Rule 11 requires you to
engage in an inquiry into the nature of the claim, what theories exist, what Courts may be proper venues and have appropriate jurisdiction to hear those claims. If you had done any of that research prior to November 24 th, you would have been able to preserve the rights of your client. Your client is out of luck because of inaction when you had an affirmative obligation during that period of time to research her claim and file it in an appropriate Court.

I don't have that case before me, and I don't want to, you know, put you in a box. That issue hasn't been litigated here. But it doesn't seem to me that you served your client well. And the suggestion that there was a lack of due process in this Court, or by these parties, could be construed as an effort to deflect the focus away from your own malpractice.

MS. MARINO: Your Honor, we researched a lot about the food and about the poison. I did not research a class action. But we engaged --

THE COURT: If you researched Iams, they were the subject of the proceedings in this court. If you googled Iams, you would have found the existence of this case. We put it up on the Court website. It was in every major newspaper. It was on the nightly news. You have to have had your head in the sand not to know about this
case.

MS. MARINO: Be that as it may, Your Honor, we didn't.

THE COURT: I have already ruled in this case that actual notice is not required. That the rule doesn't require it. The Constitution doesn't require it. The publications were not random as you described them, but carefully thought out. They were proposed to this Court, considered by this Court. They were targeted to both general circulation papers, to industry newspapers. You say, yourself, that your client went to a well-renowned vet, specialized hospitals. This was, there was a specific targeted notice to the veterinarians of the world, of the United States. Easily, could have, you client could have easily received notice that way.

You cite cases suggesting that the lack of mailing or direct notice would be a Constitutional infirmity. We had mailings to all known claimants in an effort to reach them as well.

Your papers to me present arguments which you disagree with Supreme Court precedent. This Court is bound by the Supreme court. I don't have any authority to reject a Supreme Court decision because its reasoning is not consistent, in your view, with its decision. I'm not sure why the 14 th Amendment is thrown up at me unless this
involves citation to case law that involves class actions pending in State Courts. The precise issue was ruled upon by me in this Court. You were aware at least by December that this case could implicate your proceedings, and yet you did nothing to come to me. We had to come to you. We had to go track you down and bring you here to ask you why you're continuing to proceed in a Court in which a fair construction of my order would lead a reasonable attorney to know that you were acting in actual contempt of my order. You didn't come here.

MS. MARINO: I did contact the Court, Your Honor. THE COURT: You didn't file a motion. You didn't seek to intervene or to contest the final judgment or appeal this matter. You continued to litigate in another forum in what could be fairly construed as actual contempt of my outstanding order, which you were given -talk about actual notice, the defendants told you about it.

MS. MARINO: Yes. At that time I said just let's extend the time to answer and try to figure this out here. THE COURT: You didn't come to me.

MS. MARINO: That's true. The defendants made an order to show cause, and here I am.

THE COURT: Here you are.
You argue case law that has, talks about
settlements that don't have opt out provisions. We had opt out provisions here. I just -- this is as close to sanctionable conduct as $I$ have seen in a long time. And I don't know what else to say about it other than $I$-- it seems to me it was not the case with regard to the claims that one could recover up to 100 percent of your vet bills and actual damages, as part of that settlement here.

MR. WEXLER: That was our goal.
THE COURT: And $\$ 900$ for those who didn't have documented damages. You've asserted that there's no provision in this to address your client's damages, which is factually inaccurate.

MS. MARINO: I apologize. There's not a lot of time to prepare my papers. I did the best that I could.

THE COURT: You had 15 months, Miss Marino, 15 months between the -- the affidavit of your client that says she retained you in August of '07. You had 15 months to figure out what claims she had and where they could be asserted. And, you waited until literally the day that the claims period expired, after extensive hearings in this Court, carefully calculated notice and broad publicity.

I think if your client's pet died as a result of the food manufactured by Iams or Menu Foods, then she perhaps was a victim. But $I$ think she was victimized
twice by your failure to adequately address the legal remedies available to her, and I don't think it's fair for you to attribute to these parties or to this court a lack of due process.

So, unless you have something else to add, I'm inclined to enjoin you from proceeding in the Southern District of New York. At this point I'm not going to direct you to dismiss the case. It seems to me that it would, $I$ want to be respectful of Judge Rakoff and his docket. But if you continue to prosecute that case, you will be in my mind in contempt of this Court and this Court's orders.

I leave it to you what you need to do to be in compliance.

MS. MARINO: I understand that, and the cross motion, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Well, let me ask Mr. Wexler if I could what the status of the various claims are, here. Do the likely claim exceeds the fund?

MR. WEXLER: They do. We have 25,000 claims and we're in the middle of the adjusting process. We get periodic reports from Heffler, the administrator. All the claims have not been vetted, yet. We don't know what the end number will be. There are, they're just in that process.

Now typically what will happen at the end of the process, Heffler will make a recommendation to us and give us the reasons why they are rejecting certain claims or accepting claims; this one was late; this one was not; whatever their recommendation is, and we will confirm on ourselves and come to the Court with a proposed distribution order and recommendation, and ask for Your Honor's blessing of the distribution.

It's really premature to be able to judge, even whether this claim would have an impact because until the vetting process is finished, we really don't know the aggregate number that is going to be requested to be paid out to people and how that, whether there is a serious pro rata distribution or whether it's 100 percent or not. We can't tell, yet.

THE COURT: Does the claim administrator have the capacity to keep a record of claims filed out of time?

MR. WEXLER: Yes. And we asked them to do that because it's not unusual for claims to have come in late. It's just not in a class action, whether securities case, consumer case, antitrust or anything else. And, sometimes the administrator rejects it out of hand for that reason. Sometimes they make a recommendation it be rejected out of hand or that it, you know, so long as -- the key in my experience is whether or not consideration of the claim
will affect the overall administration process. This case, considering where we are in the process, I would say, no, it would not. But whether or not it would be accepted is another matter.

THE COURT: All right.
My thought was that there were -- there were provisions to pay over the remainder to charitable organizations. One could argue that it would be more fair, if there were in fact extra funds available, that perhaps they would be best applied to actual out of time claims. But that's why I asked.

MR. WEXLER: I think it's a great idea, but I think what we're looking at, realistically, based on the number of claims which I think the last time we were here we were, it was 13,000. When the doors closed it became, it was 25,000. They have to be, you know, there are standards that the administrator has to apply to make sure that these are all legitimate claims, and it appears now that there will be no remainder for charities. But we don't know.

THE COURT: Well -- I'm sorry, Miss Gately.

MS. GATELY: May I say something for a moment?
THE COURT: Sure.
MS. GATELY: I would just note in our papers we sort of set forth our position on the late filing of the
claims which was, we said under the circumstances, this isn't the right case for the Court the exercise its discretion in that way.

I would note for the Court that next week we have a reply brief due in the Southern District of New York and as recently as last week we had a brief filed by Miss Marino requesting the Southern District to proceed ahead full steam.

Under these circumstances, I wanted to note that for the Court, because we are continuing to have to expend money to, you know, fight on two fronts, and I think if we turn back to the point in time when she embarked on this filing her claim, on November 24 th in the Southern District of New York instead of coming here, what we told her at that time was dismiss your case in the Southern District of New York, make your application here to this Court, and that wasn't done. Under these circumstances, I would present that $I$ have an objection to the Court having the late claim, but we are continuing to expend extensive resources which is not fair to the defendants at this stage of the case.

MR. WEXLER: With respect to that --
THE COURT: I'm sorry. I don't want to lose the thought that I'm hoping it will end.

MS. GATELY: Me, too, Your Honor.

MS. MARINO: Your Honor, $I$ do not believe a reply brief will be necessary. I will discontinue the case in the Southern District.

MR. WEXLER: With respect to the continuation of expenditures of costs, which $I$ certainly sympathize with under these circumstances, you know, the late claim and how it's considered has no impact on the defendants at all.

THE COURT: They have a --
MR. WEXLER: They will pay. It's a liquidated amount. It's, you know, we have to consider together the impact of late claims on other payments to the class and whether permitted or not. At this juncture it's been submitted to the administrator who has it. So, it's a question of whether it just gets considered with everything else, but the lateness is noted. We are aware of this, the peculiarities attached to this claim, and at the appropriate time we will be able to address it with a recommendation. But it's just premature.

THE COURT: So there exists at least the possibility that if one determined that the pro rata impact on all of the other claimants was, is minimal, that some recovery to this or other late claimants might be at the end of the day some possible amendment of the overall settlement, and in the interest of fairness.
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MR. WEXLER: Yes. I don't know it requires an amendment, but, yes, we understand, and this is one of the issue with notice. Notice is not perfect. Sometimes people are a little late. Maybe a good reason. Maybe there isn't. And, it has to be taken into account as well. But, and maybe under these circumstances it's not a good reason. But it's just like I said, it's premature. It may be appropriate. We well test the impact of the late claims on pro rata distributions or full distributions and be able to make a judgement at that point.

I could just tell you the volume, though, and how its been constructed that you can imagine, particularly in the undocumented phase where the administrator has to read the explanations. Some are very, very long. Pull out the numbers. It's a, it's a longer process than we all would like, but it's, that's what is taking place now, and it's premature to make a judgment of the effect of late claims on distributions.

THE COURT: All right. I feel comfortable exercising jurisdiction and enjoining further proceedings that, by class members in violation of my previous order. I would be, I would at least need briefing on the issue of any possible amendment of the final plain or final orders here because we do have a pending appeal, do we not?

MR. WEXLER: We do. I would not make a -- this would come up, we will bring a motion to distribute the funds at which time we will address this issue with Your Honor. That's what we do as class counsel. Being here today and hearing your concerns and the arguments and talking to defense counsel, we're, you know, we deal with late claims on a regular basis. Sometimes we ask for them to be permitted and sometimes we ask for them not to be. We'll give an explanation and brief the issue.

THE COURT: Perhaps one of the reasons why the final order recognized the continuing jurisdiction of this Court.

MR. WEXLER: That's right.
THE COURT: To see that settlement terms are ultimately put in place; that the relief negotiated is implemented; and to the extent this Court would exercise such powers, the continuing equitable power of the Court should insure a just result under the circumstance.

MR. WEXLER: That's right.
THE COURT: Mr. Anastasio hasn't been heard from, yes, but has his client put in a claim, Mr. Wexler, to your knowledge?

MR. WEXLER: We don't know.
MR. ANASTASIO: No, Your Honor. Although we would like the opportunity to do so. My client was among
that group that had two dogs that died as a result of the food. My client psychologically spun out of control and her entire life melted down with every characteristic you could imagine associated with that, what I'm describing.

She did come to me with this matter. I was unaware of the claim. Perhaps I'm in the same group as Miss Constance Marino, with regard to the not making adequate preparation.

THE COURT: I'm not asking you to fall on your sword, Mr. Anastasio. Your papers were --

MR. ANASTASIO: My client is among that group also that the, this litigation and settlement was specifically designed to assist. She is among that group. She has medical bills. She has costs of purchase of her dogs -- all of the information needed in order to demonstrate that she in fact is among the group who this entire litigation was designed to benefit, and to resolve the issue that was the very issue that is in her case.

Failure by either counsel or through information distribution, in not knowing that there were time limits in the filings, and in the end, the result is that the person who has been victimized is now victimized again.

I understand there needs to be on the part of Menu Foods and the other defendants that an answer to the solution to this to move on and an end to it as with all

Court proceedings. Reviewing the Judge's order, reviewing the fillings, and all of that, clearly there's ample legal basis to overcome the objections raised by counsel. However, in that the Menu Foods and other plaintiffs really in no way would be harmed by my client being included in on that class, and being that it would be an additional devastation for my client after having lost the two dog, having lost her family, and all of the other things that occurred as a result of some of these actions, that in the interest of true justice to the individual, I think that it would be appropriate to include her in that class of people who could at lease benefit, to the limited extent that the settlement consent order allows.

THE COURT: Well, are you familiar, Mr.
Anastasio, with the Chancellor's foot?
MR. ANASTASIO: No, Your Honor.
THE COURT: The -- first of all I think Mr.
Wexler has recognized, and suggested to me that the proceedings pending before me have some room for equitable considerations at the end of the line. There are limits to equity. There's value to the law. You have rules and they're followed. Then there is, and there is adequate notice then there is a fairness to the uniform application of a known rule. But if $I$ exercised my equity and let a couple people in the door after the door is closed, it
raises another equitable issue, and that is the equitable issue associated with all those other people out there who also didn't get it in time and also suffered a loss, and also suffered harm. This is an imperfect system. But, why should I cut the recovery for those who followed the rule of law, followed the orders of the Court, and made timely claims in order to benefit your clients when there were other people similar situated who will recover nothing. The notion of the Chancellor's foot is equity is in the, is in the power of the Court, but every Court that exercises it would, and sees it differently. You might as well measure the Chancellor's foot to determine the extent of the equity that would be granted. That has its own inequities, its own unfairness.

So I'm going to leave it to another day, and Mr. Wexler's advocacy and good judgment as this thing moves forward to see how the claims play out. Nothing that I would do today here should be construed as any prejudice to Miss Marino's application to the claims administrator or to any that you might file, or indeed any that might come in late. But you will have to recognize that you're late. The issue of the adequacy of this, the notice and adequacy of this settlement will be decided, it seems to me, by the Court of Appeals, and if it's affirmed, then this issue will be joined. But in the interim you have
all the other remedies available to you at law, and my suggestion is that you get in line and see how it plays out.

MS. MARINO: For the record, we will withdraw our State action.

THE COURT: All right. That would be consistent with the orders previously ordered, entered by this Court.

MR. ANASTASIO: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: And any further prosecution of those actions will be considered by this Court as a potential act of contempt.

MR. ANASTASIO: I understand.
THE COURT: Anything further, Miss Gately?
I see in your footnote that you are willing, despite the positions you have taken, and I take no issue with them, it seems to me you are gracious in your footnote with regard to attorney fees, that you will give Miss Marino and Mr. Anastasio another chance to do the right thing.

MS. GATELY: That's right, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Without prejudice.
MS. GATELY: Without prejudice to a future application if they continue their cases.

The only remaining matter, $I$ could give an update relating to the status of the Canadian order when
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you are ready.
THE COURT: The Canadian order --
MS. GATELY: Of the Provinces.

THE COURT: Let's wrap this one up.
Miss Gately, I'll ask you to submit an order, a
final order enjoining the plaintiffs in the pending matter in the Southern District, and the matter in the New Jersey State Court from proceeding further in those, prosecuting those claims in these Courts. I'll ask you to draft it in a way that makes -- I don't quite feel comfortable ordering them to dismiss them. I'm not sure there's much of a distinction there, but $I$ certainly feel comfortable enjoining them from proceeding further.

MS. GATELY: I'm clear on how to do that.
THE COURT: All right.
I'm going to deny, to the extent that the requested relief includes attorney's fees, I'm going to deny that without prejudice. I'm going to deny the cross motion to allow for the claims to be recognized as a timely claim, to be filed timely, non pro tunc. And, I'll deny the, that the sum certain be allowed for that claim.

Nothing in that ruling, as I indicated, will preclude the claims administrator from acknowledging, recording, and in essence placing on the shelf any out of time claims, including any filed in the future by Mr.

Anastasio's client, and the one that has been claimed, and perhaps further supplemented by submissions made by Miss Marino.

Whether those are recognized by this Court at the end of the day requires more proceedings, more history, and a report by the claims administrator when we come to the final distribution. I will take up any legal and equitable arguments regarding those claims when that issue is properly joined.

Anything further, Miss Marino?
MS. MARINO: No, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Mr. Anastasio?

MR. ANASTASIO: No, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Anything further, Miss Gately?
MS. GATELY: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Wexler, anything further on that issue?

MR. WEXLER: No. You covered it.
Thank you.
THE COURT: All right.
Miss Gately, how many Provinces are there in

Canada?

MS. GATELY: We have 7 of 9. We're getting there slowly, ever so slowly. Alberta and New Brunswick are still holding out. Alberta, as I mentioned in one of the
prior telephonic status hearings, had raised an issue with respect to the currency issue, that the Canadian plaintiffs had raised, and there has been a back and forth from the plaintiff's lawyers in Canada responding to the Court's inquiry, and I think we expect that that has been resolved, and that there's nothing that's stopping the Court from issuing the order, but not -- New Brunswick is just taking its time.

THE COURT: An island unto itself. Or connected to the mainland, but in any event, it's encouraging we have 7 of 9. A little bit frustrating we don't have the other 2. It's clear to me you have been working diligently on it, consistently, and that it's once again just a matter of time. Is that a fair assessment?

MS. GATELY: Yes, Your Honor. My Canadian
counsel again predicts a week, 10 days, hopefully, and they expect to get the other orders. They can't guarantee that, but that's what they expect.

THE COURT: All right.
Mr. Wexler, is that your understanding?
MR. WEXLER: We are hostage to the Canadians right now. It is my understanding.

THE COURT: All right.
And nothing else that you can do that you haven't already done in anticipation of those orders.

There's a place, once the orders are in place and no longer in violation of the Canadian orders that the mechanism is in place?

MR. WEXLER: We have an escrow set up as Wells Fargo. It's ready to receive funds as soon as the matter is funded, which is after New Brunswick and Alberta weigh in.

THE COURT: Miss Gately on behalf of the defendants and various contributors to the fund, there continues to be no reason to believe that the money is not still available and ready to be contributed to the fund at the appropriate time.

MS. GATELY: We can't wait to get the funds in there. We've been ready, willing, and able to get it in for quite some time.

THE COURT: As Mr. Anastasio and Miss Marino's presence make clear, there's a lot of people in line and waiting.

So, I can continue to appreciate the efforts of everyone to work through the difficult issue to deal with the multi-jurisdictional wrinkles. There's nothing more I can do except thank you for your updates, and thank you, and await the final word.

I suppose we should set it down for a telephone conference. Miss Neuvoa is right on the spot here. April

20th, 2009, at 1:00 o'clock, if we could have our standard telephone conference? It's another 17 days, which even by Canadian time should be all right.

MS. MARINO: It does not include myself and Mr. Anastasio, correct?

THE COURT: Subject to our jurisdiction, as a result of the finally settlement order, and order to show cause, but we have liaison counsel on the plaintiff's side and on the defense side. You have not formally intervened in these proceedings, so although as a member of the class you are entitled to all the rights attendant to that status, and I ask you to confer with Mr. Wexler about the status of the case so that you are aware of the nature of the proceedings here, but this is conference for liaison counsel only.

MS. MARINO: Thank you.
THE COURT: All right.
Anything further for today?
I know I have some pending motions that I'll take up shortly. I may have you back here on one of them, but -- they're t'd up. One, I believe is an issue with regard to the destruction of the inventory which was not fully briefed.

MR. WEXLER: We are filing a brief, today.
THE COURT: All right. I'll take that up and
the other issue concerning the appeal in short order.

Please expect something soon or otherwise you'll
hear from the Court concerning the scheduling of a hearing.

MR. WEXLER: Yes, sir.

MS. GATELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you all for being here.

Mr. Anastasio and Miss Marino, I expect you'll be getting in line. Unfortunately it's the end of the line, but you will be in line, and I'll sign the order that I have asked for promptly when it's submitted.

The record will reflect the denial of the motions. If the order could also specify the ruling with regard to the motions $I$ would appreciate it.

MS. GATELY: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Nice to see you all again.

Good luck, and see you again, soon.
(At which time the matter was adjourned)
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## C ERTIFICATE.

I, Stephen J. Daner, C.C.R., Official United States Court Reporter and Certified Court Reporter of the state of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I do further certify that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that $I$ am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel and that $I$ am not financially interested in this action.

S/STEPHEN J. DANER
STEPHEN J. DANER, C.C.R.
Certificate No. 30X100151400
Date: April 4, 2009
U.S.




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